



ORDER OF SERVICE
COMMEMORATION OF THE
MARTYRDOM OF THE EMANUEL 9
A Prayer Service of Lament, Repentance,
and Remembrance
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Prelude

*The Rev. William H. Lamar, IV, Senior Pastor
Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Washington, DC*

*The Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Zacharias, Pastor
John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Washington, DC*

*Civil Rights Attorney, Retired, Robert L. Bell
Israel C.M.E. Church, Washington, DC*

*The Rev. William J. Gohl, Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA*

Welcome

*The Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Zacharias, Pastor
John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Washington, DC*

Greeting and Occasion

*Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate
Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District
A.M.E. Zion Church*

Confessional Litany and Lament

*The Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant, Presiding Elder
Washington District, A.M.E. Zion Church*

They were doing
what we are called to
as they engaged in bible study.

It was Wednesday night—
a stranger walked in,
and these people welcomed him and prayed together:

the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton
Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd,
Susie Jackson,
Ethel Lee Lance,
the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor,
Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders,
the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons,
the Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson,
and the honorable state senator and pastor of the church,
the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

*The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop
Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod, ELCA*

This stranger, one of our own, wanted to ignite a “race war,”
he said, after he shot and killed them,
denying them the very humanity he claimed for himself,
claiming rights and privileges associated with “whiteness.”

We light this candle in testimony to the survivors,
We light this candle in memory of black and brown bodies
lynched and martyred long ago, their blood still testifies,
We light this candle in memory of black and brown bodies that
are still lynched and martyred today, their lives give urgency to
our gathering and the work that is before us.

The Rev. Karen B. Brau, Senior Pastor

Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, DC

As Lutheran Christians, we confess to God and to you, our siblings in Christ, the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. We pray, God, have mercy.

☩ God, have mercy.

The Rev. William J. Gohl, Jr., Bishop

Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

As Lutheran Christians, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. We pray, God, have mercy.

☩ God, have mercy.

The Rev. Karen B. Brau, Senior Pastor

Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, DC

As Lutheran Christians, we confess racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support policies that actively hurt people of color. We pray, God, have mercy.

☩ God, have mercy.

The Rev. William J. Gohl, Jr., Bishop

Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA

As Lutheran Christians, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal of indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. God, have mercy.

☩ God, have mercy.

The Rev. Karen B. Brau, Senior Pastor

Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, DC

As Lutheran Christians, we confess that rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law

enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color.
We pray, God, have mercy.

☞ God, have mercy.

The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop

Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod, ELCA

As Lutheran Christians, we know that confessions and apologies are empty promises without meaningful actions – actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. Though we trust that we are reconciled to God through Christ’s death and resurrection, we seek such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, we will not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy. We trust that God can make all things new, in us, in the church, in the world, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

☞ Amen.

Scripture and Meditation

The Rev. Dr. Alvin T. Durant, Presiding Elder

Washington District, A.M.E. Zion Church

Prayer

The Rev. Dr. Vernon A. Shannon, Pastor Emeritus

John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Washington, DC

Scripture and Meditation

The Rev. William H. Lamar, IV, Senior Pastor

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church, Washington, DC

Prayer

*The Rev. Dr. Ricky D. Helton, Senior Pastor
Israel C.M.E. Church, Washington, DC*

Scripture and Meditation

*The Rev. William J. Gohl, Jr., Bishop
Delaware-Maryland Synod, ELCA*

Prayer

*The Rev. Karen B. Brau, Senior Pastor
Luther Place Memorial Church, Washington, DC*

The Challenge Before Us

*The Rev. Dr. Christopher L. Zacharias, Pastor
John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church, Washington, DC*

Blessing

*The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, Bishop
Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod, ELCA*

Go into the world in peace, be of good courage.

Render unto no one an evil thing for an evil thing;

Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak,

Comfort the afflicted, cry out for justice,

all people, love and serve the Lord,

Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the blessing of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
us and abide in us, now and always.

☪ **Amen.**